

Raised H.B. No. 5452

To: Education Committee

- Legislative Office Building, Room 3100
- Hartford, CT 06106

I am writing in support of HB No. 5452. I currently have a 7 year old daughter in 2nd grade attending elementary school in Fairfield, CT.

My daughter has life threatening food allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. She has life saving medication (epinephrine) in her school nurses office and in her class room to be used in case of accidental ingestion which would cause a reaction. Management of this situation is extremely stressful and requires a lot of correspondence with her school and vigilance on the part of our family.

We are eligible to ride the bus to school but we can not currently utilizes this service. There is no system in place to protect and save her during a potential reaction to her allergens on the bus. The drivers are not trained to recognize symptoms and administer the life saving medication, epinephrine. Therefore, she can not ride the bus. She is too young to self administer and in the case of a potential reaction, she would likely be unable to do so given the severity of her allergy. A reaction could include coughing, vomiting and breathing trouble.

The fact that she can not ride the bus causes many issues for my family. We have to coordinate transportation to get her to and from school every day. We would like her to be able to ride the bus, but we will need accommodations to insure her safety, and passing this bill will help us get the help we need.

Please consider my testimony, as I speak for many others in the same situation statewide. I hope we can pass this bill and provide the necessary help for these kids so that they can ride the bus safely to school.

Thank you so much for your consideration of my testimony. I am happy to provide any additional information or assistance to support this bill.

Your work and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A Mother of a small child with Life Threatening Food Allergies in Fairfield, CT